



Milwaukee County

County Executive Scott Walker
County Board Chairman Lee Holloway
Supervisor James G. White

March 7, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact Harold Mester, County Board Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

or Rod McWilliams, County Executive Communications Director

414-278-4216 or rmcwilliams@milwcnty.com

JOINT STATEMENT ON DECISION TO FUND STUDY OF MAYOR'S TRANSIT PLAN

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker, County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, and County Board Transportation and Public Works Committee Chairman James G. White issued the following statement today in response to the Milwaukee Connector study committee's decision to fund a study of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's plan to spend the \$91.5 million in federal funds allocated to improve transit in Milwaukee County.

"The decision today to allocate time and money on Mayor Barrett's transit plan is flawed. We do not need to spend more than half of the \$91.5 million the federal government has allocated for transit in Milwaukee County on a fixed trolley system that only serves a 3-mile area in downtown Milwaukee."

"This system will do nothing to address the transit needs of those in our community who rely on transit to get to jobs, school, and to go shopping. Worse, this system will take scarce resources away from the current transit system that people need."

"The Mayor has not identified a funding source for his project that will not hurt the existing Milwaukee County Transit System. It's inappropriate and irresponsible to spend millions of dollars on preliminary engineering for a project that doesn't have the consensus it needs to be approved."

"A better approach is for us to move forward on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that both the City and County already agree on. We need to push for a system that will actually benefit people who need transportation, not on one that will only benefit visitors and a select group of white-collar workers downtown."

###